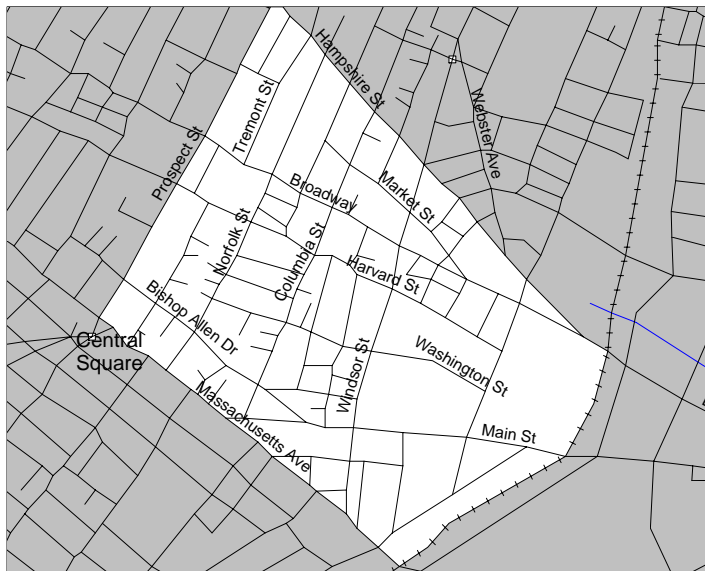
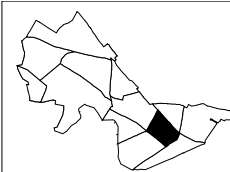


# NEIGHBORHOOD 4

## AREA 4



**BOUNDARIES:** the B&A Railroad, Massachusetts Avenue, Prospect Street, and Hampshire Street

**POPULATION:** 7,263 residents  
2,523 households

**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME:**  
\$24,665

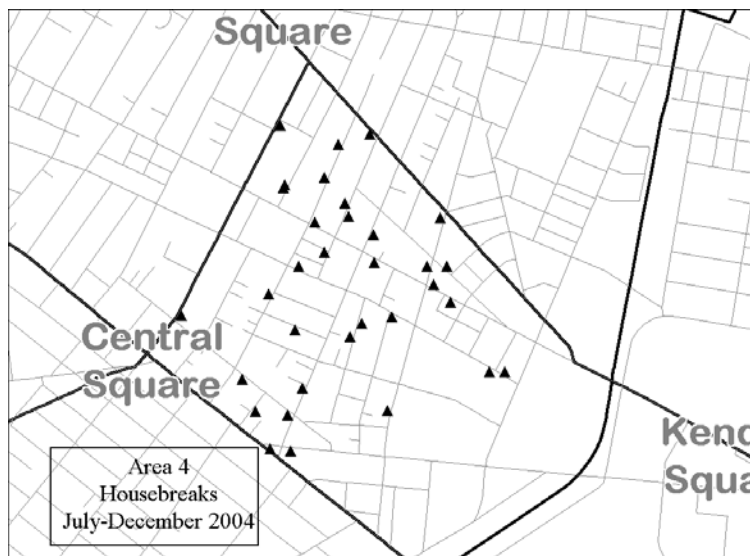
Neighborhood #4 is encompassed in the patrol boundaries of Car 2 (2 officers), and Car 4R (1 officer). Also included are walking routes 4A, 4B, and 4C, and Central 10.

### COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2000 - 2004

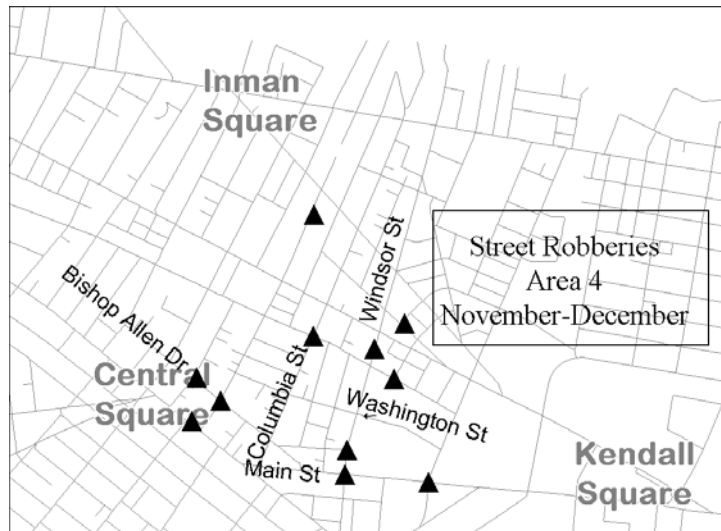
| CRIME                 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Housebreaks           | 51   | 67   | 49   | 41   | 70   |
| Street Robbery        | 36   | 25   | 30   | 31   | 40   |
| Auto Theft            | 95   | 74   | 64   | 57   | 43   |
| Larceny from MVs      | 132  | 104  | 86   | 50   | 70   |
| Malicious Destruction | 129  | 122  | 99   | 105  | 90   |
| Drug                  | 36   | 27   | 23   | 26   | 22   |

### 2004 YEAR END REVIEW

- The number of **housebreaks** in Area 4 increased by 70% over 2003. Area 4 housebreak totals accounted for the second highest number of housebreaks reported in 2004. This should be tempered against the fact that last year's total was notably lower than average for this area. Just a few streets accounted for a high proportion of the activity; specifically, Norfolk and Windsor Streets reported nearly 30% of the housebreaks. The 200 block of Broadway and the 700-900 blocks of Main Street also reported multiple incidents over the year. Much of the housebreak activity in Area 4 is focused mid-week Tuesday through Thursday, daytime 11 a.m.–5 p.m. There was heavy summer/fall activity in this area, with 19 incidents between August and October. Entrance was gained by



prying the front or rear door in most cases; cash, purses, laptops and video game boxes were commonly stolen. • Area 4 reported the second highest number of **street robberies** in the city in 2004, second only to Cambridgeport. Despite this, major patterns did not form in this area. There were four sporadic dial-a-victim type robberies in which delivery persons were robbed of either the food they were delivering or their money. The number of suspects in each case varied from one to seven, but they all took place between 9:30 p.m. and 1 a.m. Overall, nearly 42% of the robberies in Area 4 took place between 5 and 9:30 p.m. There were 12 street robberies in the last two months of the year. One or two teenage males were the suspects the majority of those incidents. Two incidents occurred within 20 minutes of each other between 6 and 7 p.m. one Sunday evening. In each instance, one female victim in her twenties was approached by two males demanding her purse. A weapon was threatened in one case. Note that some of the Area 4 incidents late in the year were connected to a string of street robberies in Cambridgeport, which cooled off after the arrests of at least 4 suspects.



- The 43 **cars reported stolen** last year was the lowest number reported in Area 4 at least 10 years. Essex, Washington, Windsor and Broadway each were locations of multiple thefts. Thefts in this area were most commonly reported Friday evenings through Monday mornings. Nearly 63% of the autos stolen from Area 4 have been recovered to date.

- The number of **larcenies from motor vehicles** reported has increased 40% over last year but is still down nearly 50% from the 2000 totals. Eleven of those incidents were thefts from the exterior of the vehicle, including 3 incidents of tire thefts from Hondas and hubcap thefts from various car makes. One incident of headlight theft from an Audi is part of an overall Audi

headlight pattern which includes incidents throughout the City. Note that overall, nine of the larcenies from motor vehicles were possible due to car doors left unlocked. Entry was gained in an additional 19 cases in an “unknown” manner, with no signs of force, possibly through an unlocked door.

- The number of **malicious destruction** incidents reported in Area 4 has decreased 14% from last year and 30% over the past five years. The most commonly reported incident was a smashed car window, with multiple incident reported on Broadway. Three incidents of destruction to a business were reported one day in July. The worst incident involved 12 individuals who entered The Gap clothing store during business hours and spray painted clothing, knocked over displays and spray painted the windows. These individuals claimed to be an anti-corporation anarchy group. A tire slashing spree was reported overnight in August where at least five vehicles were targeted on Windsor Street.

- Approximately 68% of the **drug** arrests were for Crack-cocaine trafficking and possession and marijuana possession. Three of the drug arrests were made following motor vehicle stops, and four were made after individuals using drugs in public were observed by officers. However, the majority of arrests were made following successful Special Investigations Unit efforts.

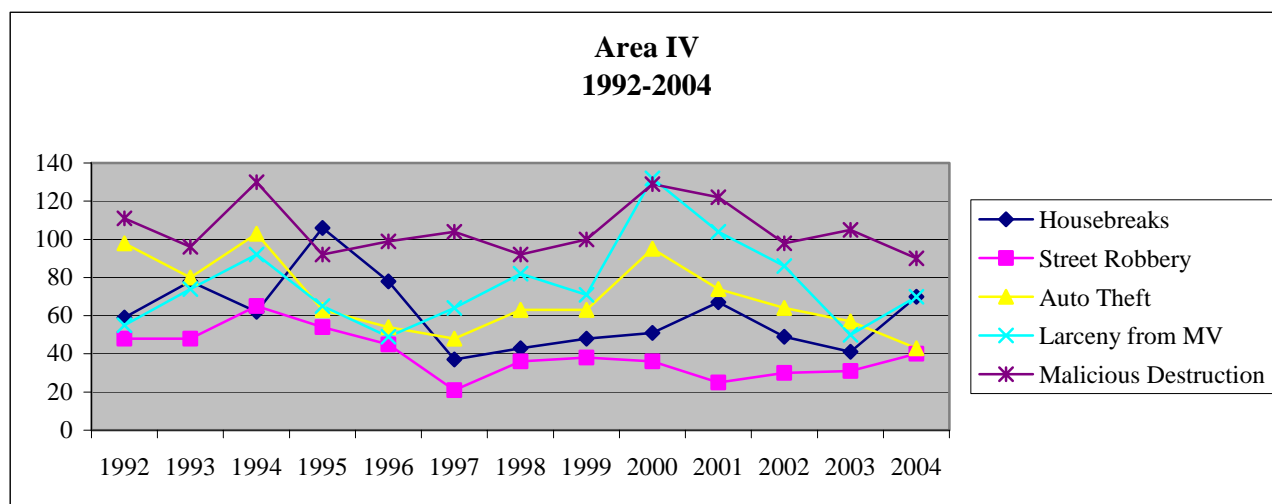
| ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR AREA 4 TARGET CRIMES |                  |                      |                  |                      |                   |
|---|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Crime</i>                            | <i>1981-1990</i> | <i>Rank '81-'90*</i> | <i>1992-2003</i> | <i>Rank '92-'03*</i> | <i>Rank 2004*</i> |
| Housebreaks                             | 101              | 5                    | 60               | 3                    | 2                 |
| Street Robbery                          | 75               | 1                    | 40               | 1                    | 2                 |
| Auto Theft                              | 147              | 3                    | 72               | 3                    | 5                 |
| Larceny from MVs                        | 134              | 2                    | 77               | 4                    | 5                 |
| Malicious Destruction                   | 131              | 3                    | 107              | 3                    | 2                 |

\*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE AND HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

Area 4 has a less than average residential population (among Cambridge neighborhoods), coupled with a series of commercial establishments lining Massachusetts Avenue. Multi-family homes, as well as large apartment buildings, and 2 public housing developments (Newtowne Court and Washington Elms) distinguish this neighborhood from all others.

- As the numbers denote, Area 4 has earned the top rank among all 13 neighborhoods for street robbery over the past 20 years.
- In recent years, community crime watches, the Cambridge Housing Authority, and thorough policing by the Cambridge Police Special Investigations Unit have succeeded in preventing many potential drug incidents in the neighborhood's residential areas.
- Area 4 **housebreaks** have increasingly rated higher than average, moving from the fifth to the third highest rank among Cambridge neighborhoods over the past 20 years. Area 4 is often a prime target, due to its high population density in residential areas. In both Mid-Cambridge and Area 4, the Crime Analysis Unit identifies several discernable housebreak patterns that emerge throughout each year.



## 2003 YEAR END REVIEW

**Street robberies** increased by only one incident from 2002, but have slightly decreased over the past five years. These incidents were highest during the second and fourth quarter of 2003. There was no pattern to the incidents at the end of the year, but during April there were several related incidents which concentrated between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. on various nights. Incidents here were second highest in the city, reflecting a historical trend. On many occasions the robberies were perpetrated by two males, one of which would sometimes display a gun or knife. • There was a minimal decrease in **housebreaks** in 2003 from the previous year, as these incidents have continued to slowly decline over the past decade. Over one fifth of the reported incidents were committed by suspects known to the victims. The second quarter ranked highest for incidents, which typically took place from Tuesdays through Thursdays, between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m.. Areas of repeat locations included: 100 block of Harvard, 100 to 200 blocks of Windsor and the 200 block of Columbia Streets. • Area 4 was among the top three neighborhoods for **auto thefts**, but these incidents have declined significantly from years past. During the summer, Wednesdays and Saturdays were the top days for thefts. • While auto thefts had repeat incidents on Main and Market Streets, **larcenies from motor vehicles** had repeat incidents on the 200 blocks of Harvard and Norfolk Streets and on Elm Street. The majority of incidents involved forced entry by broken window, which were the nature of most of the Norfolk and Harvard Street incidents. Incidents were lowest in the first quarter, and Wednesdays and Saturdays were the most popular days with evening and predawn breaks respectively. • Significant sprees of **malicious destruction of property** in Area 4 in 2003 included two rashes of tire slashings. The first was in April on Elm Street and the second in July on Columbia Street. • Half of the **drug arrests** were made by the Special Investigations Unit. Marijuana and crack cocaine arrests made up the majority of all recorded incidents in Area 4.